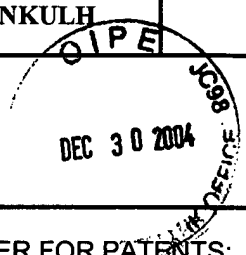



<b>AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)</b>				Docket No. <b>B-34387</b>	
Applicant(s): <b>Paul V. HILLIER et al.</b>					
Application No. <b>09/656,130</b>	Filing Date <b>09/06/2000</b>	Examiner <b>Bob A. PHUNKULH</b>	Customer No.	Group Art Unit <b>2661</b>	Confirmation No. <b>9190</b>
Invention: <b>CLUSTERED NETWORK DEVICES</b>					
 <b>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</b>					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	3 -	20 =	0 x	\$18.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	3 -	3 =	0 x	\$88.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account <input type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038.					
<b>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</b>					
 _____ Signature			Dated: <b>30 December 2004</b>		
<b>KENNETH D. SPRINGER</b> <b>REG. NO.: 39,843</b> <b>VOLENTINE FRANCO &amp; WHITT, PLLC</b> <b>ONE FREEDOM SQUARE</b> <b>11951 FREEDOM DRIVE, SUITE 1260</b> <b>RESTON, VA 20190</b> <b>TEL. NO.: (703) 715-0870</b>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">         I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on _____          _____          (Date)       </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">         _____          Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence       </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">         _____          Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence       </div>		
CC:					



**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/656,130  
Applicant(s) : Paul V. HILLIER et al.  
Filed : 6 September 2000  
TC/A.U. : 2661  
Examiner : Bob A. PHUNKULH  
Atty. Docket : B-34387

Title: CLUSTERED NETWORK DEVICES

**AMENDMENT**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
220 20<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office action of 17 December 2004, please amend the above referenced application as follows and reconsider the application in light of the following remarks.

**This paper includes** (each beginning on a separate sheet):

- 1. Amendments to and/or listing of the claims; and**
- 2. Remarks/Discussion of issues.**